

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of ) **MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**  
Hiroaki Sano et al. )  
Application No.: 10/525,972 ) Group Art Unit: 3726  
Filed: February 28, 2005 ) Examiner: JOHN C HONG  
For: TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS ) Confirmation No.: 3183  
AND TUBE CONNECTING )  
METHOD )

**REQUEST TO COMPLETE NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Notice of Allowability issued on September 22, 2009 in the above-identified application is accompanied by a copy of Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Second Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 13, 2009. That returned copy of Form PTO-1449 does not include initialing next to the cited international application publication (International Application Publication No. WO 02/066098. The Examiner is kindly asked to provide initialing next to the international application publication cited on Form PTO-1449 so the record accurately reflects the documents considered during prosecution and to return a copy of such form to the undersigned.

Should any questions arise concerning this matter, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: October 12, 2009

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